

UTAH CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS DEMILITARIZATION DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2001 - 6:30 P.M.
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BUILDING

MINUTES

Members Present:

BAUER, Dan	Tooele County
DOWNS, Dennis	DEQ
HOLT, Rosemary	Women Concerned
KIM, Deborah	U of U
OSTLER, Dave	SAC
SILCOX, Dr. Geoff	U of U
WHITE, Beverly	Tooele County
WHITE, Gene	Tooele County Commission
WINTERS, Suzanne	State Science Advisor

Guests Present:

BILLS, Ray	TOCDF
BITTNER, Chris	DEQ
CALDWELL, Monte	PMCD-TOCDF
CAMPBELL, Craig	BA&H
GRAY, Martin	UDEQ
GRENIER, Roger	TOCDF Safety Committee

HENDRICKS, Jim	PMCD-TOCDF
HOLT, Reed L.	OME
JOHNSON, Susanna	Sec. CAC
JONES, Donald H.	CAMDS
KURKJY, Tom	EG&G
LARSEN, Lorin	CEM
MESESAN, Mark	EG&G
OWENS, Douglas	Parsons Behle & Latimer
PARSLEY, Barbara	DCD
PARTNER, Robert W.	Utah Labor Commission
SAGERS, Kari	Tooele Co. Emergency
SMITH, Heather	BA&H
TAYLOR, Nadine	CEM
VAN NOY, Heidi	CAMDS
WALTERS, Clara	GOPB
WARBY, Clint	Tooele Outreach
YEKULIS, John A.	U of U Student

WELCOME/MINUTES - Dr. Suzanne Winters

Suzanne Winters, Chair of the Citizens' Advisory Commission, called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance. Dan Bauer moved to approve the February 22, 2001 minutes as written. Geoff Silcox seconded the motion; the motion carried.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

The answers to Roger Grenier's questions regarding an incident with the Super Critical Water Oxidation 360 hour performance test, which is part of the ACWA program, and questions regarding the Defense

Acquisition Executive (DAE) will be addressed at the next meeting.

STOCKPILE REPORT - Barbara Parsley

Barbara Parsley, Director of Operations Integrations, updated the CAC on the stockpile activity at Deseret Chemical Depot (Attachment 1). The overpack rockets previously in storage, have been processed and destroyed. There were eleven vapor leakers discovered in the 155 MM projectiles this past month. The leaks were detected during an operation at CAMDS.

Questions

Deborah Kim: After the leakers are overpacked do they go to the top for processing?

Barbara Parsley: No. All of the munitions are processed by campaign.

Deborah Kim: Are the overpacks stored separately?

Barbara Parsley: Yes.

PROGRAM STATUS - Monte Caldwell

Monte Caldwell, Deputy Site Project Manager, began his presentation by introducing Jim Hendricks, the new Site Project Manager at TOCDF. A biographical sketch of Mr. Hendricks was given to the CAC (Attachment 2). After the introduction, Mr. Caldwell briefed the CAC on the status of the Chem Demil program.

- Construction on the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland is 21% complete. Construction continues on the toxic cubicle in the chem demil building. Foundations are being placed for the Process Auxiliary Building, Biotreatment Area, and the Utility Building. Completion is scheduled for July 2003.
- Construction on the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Alabama is 98% complete. The hand-off is completed from construction teams to systemization teams. A construction completion ceremony is scheduled for July 7, 2001. The mortar rounds reconfiguration is 91% complete.
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Kentucky is presently developing schedules and spending plans for baseline incineration. The preliminary draft EIS is scheduled for completion on October 31, 2001.
- At Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System all of the furnaces remain shut down to allow extensive scheduled maintenance. The EPA will witness a test of the Metal Parts Furnace to its ability to thermally decontaminate halogenated plastics. The Brine Reduction Area remains operational and available for processing.
- Construction on the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Indiana is 12% complete. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2002.
- Construction on the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Arkansas is 43% complete. Operations are scheduled to begin the fourth quarter in 2003. Members of the Arkansas Citizens' Advisory Commission are planning a visit to the Tooele facility.
- The PMCD EIS for the Pueblo Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Colorado is due

April 1, 2001. The ACWA EIS is due June 1, 2001. Several members of the Colorado Citizens' Advisory Commission recently visited Edgewood, Maryland for a tour of Aberdeen facility and witnessed demonstrations of alternate technologies.

- Construction on the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Oregon is now 92% complete due to engineering change proposals. The Center for Disease Controls will review agent monitoring. Construction is scheduled to be complete this summer. Operations are scheduled to begin in the fall of 2002.

Questions

Deborah Kim: What is mortar round reconfiguration?

Monte Caldwell: They are removing the explosive components from the mortars. TOCDF still has 39,000 mortars to be reconfigured.

Suzanne Winters: Is Blue Grass moving ahead on the EIS for baseline incineration?

Monte Caldwell: They are on a parallel path. They do not know what technology that they are going to use. They have the funding and started the EIS for baseline incineration and some of the ACWA technologies. If they do use incineration, they have to start now to meet the treaty deadline.

Suzanne Winters: Obviously there has been a change because I thought there was a prohibition for expenditures unless a decision has been made on the technology.

Monte Caldwell: The EIS, from what I understand, is authorized to do preliminary work either way.

CAMDS STATUS - Donald Jones

Don Jones, Director of CAMDS, reported that CAMDS is getting ready for GB Sampling. Samples are to be extracted from 12 GB ton containers and will be analyzed for mercury (Hg) and other metals. The facility preparation, work plan, extraction and digestion procedure approval are complete. The extraction from the tons will begin on Monday, March 26, 2001 and will be finished by Wednesday, April 4, 2001. The report is to be completed on June 1, 2001.

The work on the Continuous Steam Treater Demonstration Test for the ACWA program was halted because of equipment problems. The equipment was sent to Pascoe, Washington for modifications. After modifications and the re-installation are finished, the demonstration test will continue. CAMDS had completed 273 of the 500 hours of testing on the Carbon, Wood, and DPE mixed feed.

CAMDS is also working on the Projectile Drain and Washout (PDW) for ACWA. This will involve the removal of explosives from 4.2" mortars. The Demonstration Test will include:

- Download of explosives - April 01
- Equipment installation - May 01
- Washout demonstration - July 01
- Mortar treatment in MPT - July 01
- HD Hydrolysate manufacture - July 01

Questions

Beverly White: I heard that you have had some problems with the mustard process?

Monte Caldwell: Right now we are in the nerve gas GB campaign. We do not start mustard for another year or so.

Dan Bauer: I think Bev means Lewistite.

Don Jones: That is another project which we plan on systemization, hopefully by the end of this calendar year. The equipment is installed on site but we still have some issues with the monitoring and other issues that are being worked out.

Rosemary Holt: Could you give us some more information on the GB sampling?

Don Jones: We put the container on one end so that the sediment will move down. We have devised a tube that will go down to the corner of the container and extract some of the sediment. The extraction is then put in beakers and sent to an outside lab. We believe that there is mercury in some of the tons.

Rosemary Holt: How do you choose the tons that you are going to sample?

Monte Caldwell: We ran a neutron variation system on one lot of tons called the "unknown reconditioned." The neutron interrogator basically said, this one has mercury and this one doesn't. We are sampling the tons, the interrogator determined had mercury in them, to prove if it is true. If it is true, then it will justify the system that we are using is reliable. If it doesn't prove out, we will discard that technology.

We also are getting ready to start the weteye campaign and so we will also sample the weteyes while we are sampling the GB tons. Mainly the sampling program is to determine what kind of levels of mercury are in the "unknown reconditioned" tons.

Deborah Kim: Is there a way you can use another technology to determine the amount of sludge and make some conclusions about what it is?

Monte Caldwell: We also used an ultra sonic test, but just because there is a heel does not mean that it is mercury.

Geoff Silcox: Are the ton containers, known to be contaminated with mercury, being processed?

Monte Caldwell: No. Once we find out the quantity of mercury that we are talking about then we will work with the state to determine how we are going to dispose of those tons. Our system will not handle the mercury. It might be some type of neutralization program, but we just don't know.

Rosemary Holt: Will you keep us informed on this matter?

Monte Caldwell: We should have some test results for the next meeting.

PLANT STATUS - Tom Kurkijy

Tom Kurkijy reported on the current status at TOCDF (Attachment 3). There have been two action Level 3 incidents since the last CAC meeting. On February 27, there was a confirmed ACAMS reading in the Liquid Incinerator 1 Secondary Room. On March 11, there was a failure to maintain surety

requirements in the Liquid Incinerator 1 Primary Room.

Questions

Dave Ostler: What does that mean?

Tom Kurkky: Certain areas of the plant are maintained as exclusion areas. These are areas where agent and munitions are stored. There are additional surety requirements in those areas. Maintenance was being done on the LIC 1 and during the outage the surety plate was off and there were not any door guards posted to prevent anyone from accessing the exclusion area (during an outage the agent gun is removed from the primary and a surety plate is put in place to cover the opening to prevent anyone from going through the duct from the secondary to the cross over duct into the primary and get access to an exclusion area). This incident is being investigated as an action Level 3.

Deborah Kim: Can you refresh us on what the Action Levels mean.

Tom Kurkky: Action Level 1 is a minor incident, such as a first aid where someone requires a band-aid. An Action Level 2 is a reportable injury where the employee would need treatment, such as a prescription drug, a cast etc. The Action Level 3 is a lost time injury and is the most severe.

Monte Caldwell: The LIC secondary room is an engineering control room but it requires lower protective clothing to go in. But because of an agent reading, it automatically made this incident an Action Level 3. No one was in the room at the time of the incident.

Rosemary Holt: As you are explaining these two incidents I cannot tell which one you are talking about. I am not sure what questions to ask so that we can be better informed. Next time, when you have a Level 3 incident, could you please explain in a way that we can understand.

Deborah Kim: I understand when you grade the first aid things, but it might be helpful if you made a table with each of those headings so that we have an idea of what you are talking about. I am still not sure what it means by Level 3.

Tom Kurkky: Level 3 is an internal action that we have developed with the government and DCD for evaluation of incidents that have occurred.

Geoff Silcox: What led to the ACAMS reading in the secondary room?

Tom Kurkky: We were doing some work on one of the controllers, installing new software on the HVAC system. In the process, it malfunctioned and caused us to lose the HVAC system momentarily. Before we recovered the HVAC, the pressures equalized between the LIC 1 primary and secondary rooms. The LIC's were still operating and pulling air toward the combustion air blower from the room. It was basically pulling air from other rooms in the building. It resulted in drafting air from a room which had relatively high levels of agent in it compared to what the primary and secondary rooms normally have. It basically drew that air into the primary room first, and then into the secondary. There was no release to the environment, but it did require notification because it was a Level 3.

Suzanne Winters: What was the ACAMS reading?

Tom Kurkky: 59 TWA.

DSHW UPDATE - Martin Gray

Marty Gray discussed four different issues:

TOCDF Notice of Violation/Compliance Order (NOV/CO)

DSHW issued a Notice of Violation on March 20, 2001. This covered the inspection period from September 1999 to September 2000. There were 34 violations.

TOCDF Consent Decree

On February 8, 2001 the DSHW Board approved, for public comment, the TOCDF Consent Decree. The public comment period will run from March 13, 2001 to April 11, 2001. The Board will take final action on April 12, 2001. They either give approval as a Consent Decree or they will determine that it needs further action.

Permit Modifications

TOCDF - Two Class 1 modifications have been approved by DSHW. One of the modifications dealt with LAB operating procedures and the other was a temporary authorization for a training plan. The purpose for the training plan is to allow the start of the burning of VX. There are eleven Class 1 modifications, four Class 2 modifications and one Class 3 modification still pending. DSHW will soon be taking action on the Temporary Authorization of the weteye Sampling. TOCDF will need to store the weteyes prior to incineration.

CAMDS - Two modifications have been approved by DSHW. A Class 3 modification allows set-point changes on the metal parts furnace. Updated drawings, which is a Class 1 modification, was also approved. There are nine Class 1 modifications, five Class 3 modifications and a Temporary Authorization - MPF feed-rate increase - still pending.

Non-Stockpile Update

On March 8, 2001 the RRS Quantity Variance was approved by the DSHW Board.

On March 20, 2001, during RRS operations at DCD, a PIG (container) was loaded into the Operations Trailer glovebox that was suspected to contain ampoules of agent that had leaked inside the PIG. The PIG was cut open on March 21st and 32 ampules, wrapped in plastic and plaster of paris, were found inside. Eight of the ampules were cracked or broken and no longer held any liquid contents. The following day, there was a MINICAMS alarm in the Operations Trailer workspace that was not confirmed. Later in the morning, there was an alarm for cyanogen chloride (CK) at around 1 TWA in the filter midbed monitor. Within a few minutes, the filter exhaust alarmed for CK agent readings which were detected through the RRS. The building was evacuated and the MINICAMS alarms had been cleared by early afternoon. The carbon in the filters will be replaced and assessed for leaks or other damage.

The MMD - 1 has been terminated and closure will begin.

Questions

Suzanne Winters: I have talked with the non-stockpile people regarding the termination of the MMD-1 and requested that they brief us on the termination. The primary reason for the termination was the promising results of another process being demonstrated. The Army could not justify the cost of continuing the MMD-1. If the CAC would like, I will encourage someone from the non-stockpile program to come and talk to us regarding this matter.

Dennis Downs: I think with the press release and the discussions that the Army has had with us, I hate to ask someone come out just for that purpose.

Suzanne Winters: Dennis and I did meet with Col. Ross and I felt very comfortable with this decision, but I will take the direction of the Commission if you would like to more fully explore this decision.

Rosemary Holt: I personally would like to have more information. We have been talking about this for years and it just came to an end with no explanation. They have just said, we are going to use another process, or it is the money. Those are such simple answers. You probably understand more than we do, but for the rest of the board to put closure on this, I think that we should have someone come and explain to become better informed. I would like to know how much this has cost the taxpayers and how long have they known that this wasn't going to work.

Dave Ostler: Maybe they could just send a report. As a taxpayer I am concerned about the cost of having them come out here.

Rosemary Holt: I do not necessarily mean someone needs to come out from Washington. Surely some one here has more information than we are getting right now.

John Yekulis: I can't answer specifics in the technical matters that are involved but, I can tell you that the primary reason for the termination for MMD-1 program was indeed related to cost. A new system called the EDS is being developed and performed very well in demonstration. The MMD-1 was a money hole. The decision was not kept from the public but there were a lot of competing budgetary projects and PMCD had to make a decision. They were looking at the MMD-1 going hot in April. If they had done that it would have committed them to a much longer term project so they decided the best thing to do was to put a stake through it's heart before they had gone too far.

Rosemary Holt: I appreciate your comments, but I think that accountability comes in.

Barbara Parsley: I will take your comments to Col. Ross and perhaps he may be able to come and talk to the CAC in conjunction with another trip to Utah.

Suzanne Winters: I have talked with him and he is more than willing to come and talk to the Commission. I understand from Col. Ross, that the decision has not been pending for a long time, it came very quickly. It came as a result of the success of the EDS.

Rosemary Holt: I still think that we should have someone come and speak to us on this matter so that we can have closure.

Suzanne Winters: Does anybody have objections to asking somebody to come out?

Dave Ostler: I don't have objections but I don't think that we should have them make a special trip.

Suzanne Winters: I will get in touch with Col. Ross and see if we can work it in with another trip. Are

there any other questions”

Geoff Silcox: What is a Consent Decree?

Marty Gray: A Consent Decree is the mechanism that we use to resolve violations. It lays out everything that was found and then requires a penalty or settlement for those violations. With this particular decree there is a penalty associated with it. There are a couple of items that DSHW ordered them to do for the operations at the facility. There are couple of different ways for us to finalize the Consent Order. One is through the administrative or the DSHW Board. The other is a civil lawsuit.

Geoff Silcox: At the last meeting there was some mention of cutting back the feed rates because of the metal emissions. Can you follow up on that?

Marty Gray: They have been operating at reduced feed rates for over a month because of some of the uncertainties with the agent. They are taking agent from ton containers that are known to be uncontaminated and mixing those in a tank and pulling a sample to make sure that they are staying below the feed rate.

Deborah Kim: How were these vials found to be leaking? I thought that they were all sealed.

Marty Gray: I just don't know. It is somewhat surprising but it isn't the first time.

Gene White: When did the mercury come into play?

Marty Gray: They did found in some of the mustard munitions at JACADS. I do not know if they found it in the GB munitions.

Monte Caldwell: We have only found mercury, above our normal trial burn levels, in one set of ton containers. The metals that currently have us reduced in rate are mainly attributed to lead and chrome. There is not a mercury problem with the reduced feed rate. We are not processing any of the tons with mercury.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Roger Grenier: I feel that Commissioner Holt made an excellent point about obtaining more detailed information about the rationale behind the cancellation of the MMD-1. I believe that it would be prudent and advisable to apply this comparison appraisal to the evaluation of the ACWA technologies vs. baseline technology (incineration). Topics to be compared should include effective overall cost, processes that are safe and the volume of secondary waste that is generated.

Suzanne Winters: I will take your concerns along with your previous ones and see if we can't get an explanation.

Bob Partner: Is there a list of munitions that are left to be processed?

Monte Caldwell: The Tooele Outreach Office has that list.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

After discussion the commission decided to hold the CAC meetings every **OTHER** month. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2001, at the DEQ building in Salt Lake City.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.